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## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Andreas Witzel, et al.

Serial No: Unknown

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§ Group Art Unit: Unknown

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§ Examiner: Unknown

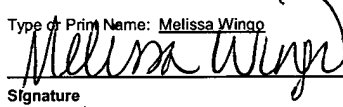
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For: OPERATING OF A SWITCHING NODE IN A COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK  
COMPRISING BOTH A LAYERED AND A NON-LAYERED ARCHITECTURAL  
ENVIRONMENT

Mail Stop PCT  
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Dear Sir:

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Please amend the application as follows prior to the substantive examination thereof:

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims, which begin on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks** begin on page 12 of this paper.